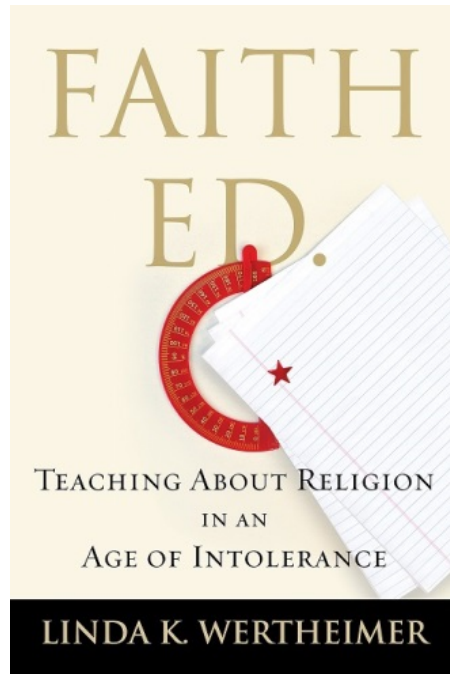


# Teaching about Religion In Polarizing Times



Presenter: Linda K. Wertheimer  
Religion Freedom Annual Review at BYU  
June 20, 2018

# Why Teaching about Religion Can Lead to Clashes

# Tug-of-war over prayer, preaching continues in public schools





Kountze, TX, cheerleaders hold prayer banner for football team to run through.

# Knowledge of Religion in Schools

*% who know public school teachers...*

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| CANNOT lead class in prayer                  | 89% |
| CAN offer comparative religion course        | 36  |
| CAN read from Bible as example of literature | 23  |

Q50a-c

PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S  
FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE May 19-June 6, 2010



# Public Knows So Little



On average, Americans answered correctly half of 32 questions on religion in a Pew Research Center survey.

# Close-Up of One Controversy

Whose Truth Should They Hear?  
Dateline: Tampa, Florida



Kelly Miliziano, Steinbrenner High School world history teacher & history department chair. She invited the guest speaker.







Hassan Shibly, an imam and executive director of CAIR-Florida. The guest speaker whose visit to Steinbrenner sparked uproar.





Face of the Opposition: Terry Kemple





## What did students think?



Laura Gonzalez at  
Steinbrenner



Hepah Hussein and Al Nafea on field  
trip to Epcot

Your Turn: What would you do?

1. Invite the speaker back?

Yes or no.

2. Use no guest speakers on religion at all.

3. Create new guidelines?







Find out more at

[www.faithedbook.com](http://www.faithedbook.com).



@lindakwert